

GOMPERS NEW OF SHIP STRIKE PLOT

In Statement Confirms Exposure of German Effort to Corrupt U. S. Labor.

MORE FACTS TO COME

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, issued a statement tonight confirming the story that efforts had been made by foreign Governments to influence corruptly leaders of organized labor to start a strike among the longshoremen and seamen and in that way prevent the exportation of American products.

Mr. Gompers says he has known for some time of the facts published today and calls attention to an intimation he gave of the situation in the letter he sent to Ernest Bohm, secretary of the New York Central Federated Union. Mr. Gompers hints that other revelations will come, even more startling, perhaps, and they will prove that labor leaders have withstood great temptation during the crisis through which the world is passing.

Will Antagonize Country.

He says that sooner or later the country will learn with astonishment the extent to which the attempts were made to influence corruptly labor organizations to tie up the commerce of the country. The statement follows:

"Replying to the question as to the exposure published in this morning's New York World regarding the efforts of the agents of foreign governments to corrupt leaders of labor for the purpose of inaugurating strikes among longshoremen, I must be understood to call attention to the fact that in my letter to Ernest Bohm, secretary of the New York Central Federated Union, of June 16, I intimated that subject and then in response to his query in my letter to him of July 28 I said:

"Authentic information has come to me that efforts have been made to corrupt men for the purpose of having strikes inaugurated among seamen and longshoremen engaged in handling American products and manning ships to certain European ports; that corrupting influence was being conducted by agents of a foreign Government, and that I had no doubt that the same agents and influence were at work elsewhere with the same purposes in view."

"In that same letter I said: 'That the effort has been made to corrupt some of our men for such a purpose is a fact, true, but that the strikes have been inaugurated is untrue, and it is untrue because the men who have given their labor and service to the workers of our country have interposed in time.'

Has Long Known the Facts.

"The facts as disclosed in the World's exposure I have known for a considerable time. If you compare the time when Mr. Cummings was in the country with President O'Connor of the longshoremen and the dates of my letter which were made public some reason may be found for his getting under cover."

"When the time shall arrive and further measures are necessary the people will learn with surprise that the people already taken place and will realize the obligations which all owe to the representation of labor and what great temptations they were honest and patriotic enough to resist in the effort to maintain a strict neutrality in the present European war. The people will realize also that the labor movement is being conducted free from the corrupting and contaminating influences of representatives of foreign nations."

Commenting upon Mr. Gompers' statement yesterday, General Organizer Hugo Payne of the American Federation of Labor said:

"The pro-German influences did not get the longshoremen on strike. All attempts to get the longshoremen on strike flat. There is no evidence yet that any of the labor leaders were bribed, although the pro-German influences tried their best to do so. I was aware of a plot for several months, but I left everything in the hands of Mr. O'Connor, president of the International Longshoremen's Association."

Strike for Eight Hours.

Secretary James B. Wilson of District No. 15 of the International Association of Machinists said:

"Pro-German influences did not succeed in swinging any of the machinists in their favor. The present strike movement of the machinists, although it is being participated in by many, is being conducted strictly for the eight hour day. A pro-German machinists' strike for the eight hour day would have failed anyway, since many of the large employers have already granted the eight hour bill."

Ernest Bohm, corresponding secretary of the Central Federated Union, said:

"The pro-German plot to tie up shipping should be condemned. It is not a plot for several months, but I left everything in the hands of Mr. O'Connor, president of the International Longshoremen's Association."

"For six weeks there have been rumors that pro-German influences were trying to buy up labor leaders. But the sailors would never go on strike for any Government. They will only strike to improve their conditions and to get a good for a strike and the unions are in a position to start a strike, but they do not consider now the best time for a strike. The longshoremen are of the opinion that the sailors' strike will not allow themselves to be influenced by a foreign Government."

Augustus H. Brown, business agent of the Sailors' Eastern and Gulf Association, said:

"For six weeks there have been rumors that pro-German influences were trying to buy up labor leaders. But the sailors would never go on strike for any Government. They will only strike to improve their conditions and to get a good for a strike and the unions are in a position to start a strike, but they do not consider now the best time for a strike. The longshoremen are of the opinion that the sailors' strike will not allow themselves to be influenced by a foreign Government."

CUMMINGS DENIES IT.

"All a Pipe Dream," Says Alleged Plot Principal.

BOSTON, Sept. 13.—"I know nothing about the longshoremen and I can't understand where they got all this foolish stuff," said Matthew Cummings, former national president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, today, in denying the story of a plot to prevent the shipment of ammunition to the Allies by a strike of 15,000 longshoremen.

The report which Cummings denied so emphatically had it that he carried letters from Dr. Edmund von Mach of Cambridge to officers of the longshoremen's union, and that he represented, who recently left this country for Germany, was the central figure in the plot to tie up shipping. Cummings also said:

"It is a pipe dream—a pipe dream, I tell you. Dennis D. Driscoll, also mentioned in the same story, said that he knew all about what took place, but that it didn't concern him."

Gifford Freed of Murder Charge.

ALBANY, Sept. 13.—The indictment against Malcolm Gifford, Jr., of Hudson for the murder of Frank Clute, an Albany chauffeur, was dismissed today. Gifford had been tried twice, both juries disagreeing.

MEXICAN NEWS KILL SEVEN AMERICANS ON BORDER

Continued from First Page.

Army officials and peace officers say the situation is well in hand. Demands were made upon Gen. Nafarrete for the surrender of two bandits known to be with him at Matamoros today. These requests have gone unheeded, the commander declaring that he has no proof implicating these men. Tonight border stations are being guarded and it is said that the troops have instructions to shoot to kill any Mexican who fires across the border. In the interior, Mexicans are being armed by the Indians and citizens are expecting to come this week. Women and children are being moved to points far from the border and stores are being guarded in all sections. Rumors to-night at Matamoros and Mercedes are that the Mexicans will invade the country on September 18.

TO DECIDE THIS WEEK.

A B C Conference May Recognize Carranza, Is Report.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13.—Formal announcement today by Secretary Lansing that the Pan-American conference will reconvene this week to give further consideration to ways and means to restore order in Mexico. The meeting will be held in Washington instead of New York.

Within the last few days reports have been in circulation that Carranza's recent successes and the supposed disinclination of the United States and the other American Powers. These reports have not been credited because the conference is opposed to the elevation of Carranza. It is admitted by some officials that the Villa faction is broken up into small bands Carranza may be recognized, but they insist that Carranza cannot maintain himself and that it would be a blunder on the part of the Pan-American conference to select Carranza as the directing head of the provisional Government which the seven republics hope to see established in Mexico in the near future.

Despatches received at the State Department seem to indicate that the Villa faction is broken up into small bands Carranza may be recognized, but they insist that Carranza cannot maintain himself and that it would be a blunder on the part of the Pan-American conference to select Carranza as the directing head of the provisional Government which the seven republics hope to see established in Mexico in the near future.

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CITIZENSHIP DENIED TO WIRELESS OWNER

Jersey Court Holds Up Papers for Dr. Frank of Sayville Plant.

U. S. IS TO INVESTIGATE

NEWARK, N. J., Sept. 13.—Application of Dr. Karl G. Frank of 24 Hickory Drive, Maplewood, secretary and treasurer of the Atlantic Communication Company, owners of the Sayville wireless plant, for citizenship was held up today by Judge Osborne as a result of newspaper charges that Dr. Frank is at the head of a German secret service force in this country. The attention of the Government authorities has been called to the case and they were given ten days to investigate the charges.

Several weeks ago the Providence Journal asserted that Dr. Frank had offered certain electrical effects to the Navy Department in order to get close to Department officials in the interest of the German Government. When Dr. Frank appeared in court today for his final papers J. F. Gordon of Philadelphia, representing the Federal Government, read from a newspaper clipping.

Dr. Frank declared that the allegations were not true. He said he was an electrical engineer and for many years had had dealings with the Navy Department. He said he was connected with a large American electrical concern, which he did not name, and that he had been in the service of the Government in the interest of the German Government.

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SIMPLIFIED TANGO IS MASTERS RULING

Teachers Decide on a Standardization of All Other Ballroom Steps.

THE WALTZ COMES BACK

One may fox trot with a little leap, slide and twinkle, one step with a pretty in and out cross step and glide, or waltz in the modern way, which is an entirely new combination of old and new, but if one dances at all—just imagine "if"—one must dance according to Hoyle and not as THEY dance. The old-fashioned foxtrots THEY introduce are officially passé.

It won't be done that way any more—at least not until the next session of the Congress of American Dancing Masters about Christmas time—and probably never again. And incidentally Mr. and Mrs. General Public and not the hitherto automatic dancing masters may say what is to be vogue and the dancing masters will teach them that they want to be taught. Their wish is Hoyle in the new school of Teachers, following of course the guiding steps of art.

The Congress of American Dancing Masters has decided what is "according to Hoyle" for the next three months—Hoyle change every so often—and the next time Miss Lightfoot, who has visited a New York cabaret, says to her dancing professor with a sighing appeal: "Won't you teach me that new step THEY do?" Prof. Graceful will bow very politely